

### April 20 Design Charrette:

Nearly 100 participants, including the entire Guiding Coalition, Board of Education and others, participated in a full day Design Charrette in Innisfail on April 20. A charrette is defined, appropriately, as an intense period of design activity. That certainly describes the tone of the day: intense, creative, interesting and collaborative work which led us much closer to distilling down to our vision and mission statements.

## Vision is Vital



**Distilling information** – As she welcomed participants to the Design Charrette, Board Chair Colleen Butler thanked members of the Guiding Coalition for their work over the past year to define new Vision and Mission statements for Chinook's Edge. This highly consultative process has involved visits to every school by Superintendent Kurt Sacher, the gathering of data from several different groups, surveys to the general public, research and strategizing, discussing and listening. "Vision is vital," she said, "because it drives the way an organization functions."

### Co-Creating a vision:

- The Chinook's Edge Board of Education wanted the highest level of involvement and buy-in in determining the Vision and Mission statements. They wanted to ensure everyone had a piece of the process and, once the analysis of the data is concluded, that it can be put into a form that can be shared.
- The great dialogue that this process has begun will continue, as we continue to debate each idea and examine every word.
- Draft vision and mission statements will be presented to the Board of Education on June 8.

### Words of wisdom from student participants:

- Learning is an ecosystem. It is organic, interconnected, constantly evolving, full of diversity and complex systems, with a definable state of health. There is always the question: Will they survive?
- Learning is as necessary as water.
- Students learn when you take them out of the classroom.
- It has been nice to be asked about the things that are important to us.



### **Superintendent Kurt Sacher:**

Everything we have heard this year points to one main focus: we have to reach our vision through the role of the teacher. Our focus is on ALL teachers, not just some. We must support our teachers 100 percent in order to reach all of our students—not just the smart ones or the ones who are easiest to teach. We will provide supports and structures, but it must take place in the classroom through the teacher. We know there is only so much a single person can do, but this is what we must do to ensure that what we are delivering for kids is a quality learning environment.

“ If we get it right, we will be promoting the intrinsic motivation of teachers and students to engage in continuous improvement of instruction and learning. We can affect all teachers and students 100 percent.”

- Kurt







“This is a combination of so many people’s thoughts, supported by research and created through reams of data. This has been a fascinating process.”

- Dot Negropontes,  
Guiding Coalition Chair

“We owe the Guiding Coalition a great debt. They have worked to capture everything that is important in this division.”

- Colleen Butler, Board Chair



## WHAT’S NEXT?

A small group, comprised of members from the Guiding Coalition, will spend the day on May 20 writing draft Vision and Mission statements from the data collected over the past year. These statements will be presented for approval to the Board of Education at the June 8 meeting.



## Chinook’s Edge School Division Visioning Project

NOW

2015

2030